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From the Author

THOUGHTS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND.

BY

MONTAGUE GORE, ESQ.

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LONDON:

JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

1848.

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THOUGHTS ON IRELAND.

THE Condition of Ireland still remains at once the most important, and the most difficult subject of public discussion. From the days of Spenser to those in which we live, all attempts materially to improve the state of that country have failed; and some fatality seems to impend over all measures adopted with regard to it; whether of a severe or conciliatory character. They have all alike proved unavailing, and although “there have been divers “good plottes devised, and wise councils cast about “the reformation of that realm; it is still its fatal “destiny, that no purposes whatever which are “meant for her good will prosper or take good “effect.”*

I cannot avoid thinking that this continuous misery of that country arises in a great degree from the circumstance that, until very lately, sufficient attention has not been paid to the development of her Industrial Resources. The great subjects of Party Conflict; Parliamentary Reform; Catholic Emancipation; and similar measures occupied for many years the exclusive attention of our leading

* Spenser's View of the State of Ireland. 1596.

Statesmen. Now, very far am I from under-rating the importance of measures of this character ; very far from denying the influence which they must exercise on the *social* condition of a people. Neither am I blind to the dangers that spring from too much interference on the part of Government with what is often better left to individual exertion. Mr. Burke alludes to such interference, as one of the causes that led to the downfall of the ancient monarchy of France, " My dear departed friend," says he, alluding to his deceased son, " had often remarked that the leading vice of the French Monarchy (which he had well studied) was in " good intention ill-directed, and a restless desire of " governing too much. The hand of authority was " seen in everything, and in every place. All, therefore, that happened amiss even in the course of " domestic affairs was attributed to the Government."* Still, there is not a little which a wise and just Government may always do ; to promote the social interests of those entrusted to its charge.

When the Irish Poor Law was first introduced, it was proposed to mitigate the pressure of its operation, by collateral measures of a temporary character. The Railway Commissioners for Ireland say, in their second Report in 1837, " It should be recollected that the landed interest will be taxed heavily " by the Poor Law ; and it would, therefore, be a

* Thoughts and Details on Scarcity.

“most auspicious introduction of so great a change
 “in the social state of this country, if the pressure of
 “that measure were lightened by the commencement
 “of some works of great magnitude, which should
 “last for a considerable time, and afford employment
 “to large numbers of the people in various parts of
 “Ireland. And if such undertakings were of a
 “nature evidently calculated to open new avenues
 “to laborious industry, and thus hold out a reason-
 “able prospect of constant occupation, even after
 “the period of their completion, *the anxiety which,*
 “*both on grounds of humanity and policy, must*
 “*attend the adoption of so great a change, would be*
 “*allayed, and the most formidable of its immediate*
 “*inconveniences be effectually obviated.*”*

The present Earl of Carlisle, when proposing to
 Parliament a plan for constructing railways in
 Ireland, in 1838, said, “We believe that, by under-
 “taking works more extensive and useful, than
 “could be undertaken by parties who only look
 “to profit; we shall secure the attainment of
 “what otherwise we must despair of; a great
 “increase, by means of our enlarged scheme of
 “operations, to the employment for labour in Ire-
 “land; an increase which, if it has been at all times
 “essential to the real welfare of the inhabitants of
 “that country, is now rendered still more so as an
 “accompaniment to the measure introduced last

* Report of Railway Commissioners, Ireland, 1837.

“session, for the relief of the poor;”* and Lord Lansdowne speaking on the same subject in the House of Lords observed: “*If ever there was a solemn pledge given on the part of Government during the discussion which ended in the passing of the Irish Poor Law last session, it was, that their Lordships would, with reference to that law, by every means in their power, encourage the employment of the labouring poor of Ireland.*” He knew that an opinion prevailed, that when money was ever sent to Ireland it was not very apt to be returned from those shores ; but if their Lordships would look at the reports of the Commissioners of Public Works, laid before them from time to time, he believed they would find, that better security did not exist than existed in that country for any sum so advanced. No less a proportion than two-thirds of the Exchequer bills which had been advanced for the promotion of public works in Ireland, were now in the course of being repaid ; and if the remaining third were not in that course also, it was because those works were not concluded.”†

The effects of opening out with roads some very desolate parts of Clare, are thus described by a gentleman of intelligence and station, in a communication to the Board of Works, the accuracy of which the Commissioners guarantee: “Communi-

* Hansard's Debates, vol. 45. p. 1080.

† Hansard's Debates, vol. 46. pp. 1318-1319.

“ cations have been effected between large towns
 “ through mountain districts, whereby the distance
 “ will in each case be shortened ; and in which
 “ districts, previous to the construction of these
 “ roads, no wheel-carriage of any kind could be
 “ used. The immediate effect has been to excite
 “ the minds of the people to pursuits of honest
 “ industry ; they can now bring lime into the
 “ mountains, and they can carry produce out of
 “ them. Illicit distillation has been checked ;
 “ first, by a market being opened for the sale of
 “ grain ; and, secondly, by the facilities afforded to
 “ the revenue officers in their search after private
 “ stills : *the consequent benefit, in a moral point of*
 “ *view, is immense.* Gentlemen who before could
 “ never reach their properties in these districts,
 “ are now led to visit and to reside on them, and
 “ form plans for their improvement. In the exe-
 “ cution of these roads the resources of the country
 “ have been developed ; quarries of stone fit for
 “ building, of slate and of limestone, have been
 “ discovered, which will be of inestimable advantage
 “ in improving the country, and in *thus stimulating*
 “ *the industry of the inhabitants.*

“ In a few years these works will contribute to
 “ the county rates, and thus repay fully the sums
 “ assessed for their formation, while the Govern-
 “ ment will be amply indemnified by the improved
 “ habits of the people, and the growing consumption
 “ of exciseable articles.”

Again; the town of Clifden in Connemara, and the surrounding country, in 1815, contributed no revenue; and, up to 1822, its agriculture was so imperfect, that scarcely a stone of oats could be got. In 1836, Clifden had become an export town, having sent out 800 tons of oats, and it produced to the revenue annually £7000. From the expenditure in Connaught, in eleven years, of £160,000 in public works, the increase of annual revenue, derivable from the province, has become equal to the entire amount. In Cork, where Mr. Griffith expended £60,000 in seven years, there has been stated to be an annual increase of customs and excise of £50,000, immediately derivable from the territories benefited by these works.*

“These,” says Sir R. Kane, “should not be called grants of money, *but instalments of capital, with realization of enormous profits.*”

But, above all things, we must look to a better system of agriculture for the improvement of Ireland. With a productive soil, and a genial climate, she requires nothing but skill and industry on the part of her people; to enable her to raise a far greater quantity of grain than she at present produces. Arthur Young speaks of the soil in Limerick and Tipperary as “the richest he ever saw, and as “applicable to every wish;” and M. Moreau de Jonnes in his “Statistique de la Grande Bretagne et

* Sir R. Kane’s Industrial Resources of Ireland.

de l'Irlande," considers the average crops for an Hectare (247 statute acres) measured in Hectolitres (2.8 bushels) to be—

	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.
Wheat . . .	18 .	16 .	20 .
Rye . . .	10 .	12 .	12 .
Barley . . .	21 .	12 .	21 .
Oats . . .	16 .	16 .	16 .
Mean . . .	16 .	14 .	17½ .

A very valuable return was furnished in 1847, in answer to inquiries made by the Earl of Clarendon, and conducted by Captain Larcom, as to the actual amount of land under cultivation in that year; and the kinds and quantities of produce grown. The value of that inquiry may be estimated by the circumstance that it embraces 60,760 townlands, concerning each of which there are no fewer than 24 entries of facts or returns, *making a million and a half of recorded facts*, all of which had to be tabulated. The facts were obtained by the constabulary force; speaking of whom Captain Larcom says, "It is due to that exemplary body, to dwell most strongly on their entire devotion to this novel duty, so long as it was required of them; often at a cost of much personal inconvenience, at a distance from their quarters, in remote districts and islands. To the admirable discipline and organization of that body it is due, that the most general and extensive inquiry can be conducted in Ireland with

“ as much precision and exactness as a model operation on the most limited scale.”

In a periodical work just published,* I find the following summary of the result of this inquiry: “ From this table we learn that more than twice as much oats was cultivated, as of all other kinds of grain ; that the quantity of turnips (owing to the peculiar circumstances of the season) was nearly three times as great as of potatoes; that the weight of hay grown was near about equal to that of potatoes ; and that Ulster was the chief province for oats, beans, and flax. Taking the produce in connection with the population for 1841, (8,175,124) and without reckoning for subsequent increase, it was found that the produce of cereal food in the whole country gave 698 lbs. for each individual ; 135 lbs. in the least fertile union, and, 1,540 lbs. in the most fertile. Taking the four provinces, these numbers become, in Leinster 895 lbs., in Ulster 775 lbs., in Munster 595 lbs., in Connaught 469 lbs. Of the potatoes there were 561 lbs. per individual, equal to about $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per day, against 2 lbs. per day of cereal crops. The cereal crops, for the whole country gave an average produce of five quarters per acre ; potatoes seven tons per acre ; turnips fifteen tons per acre ; and hay two tons per acre.”

It appears, by other reports, that there is a greater breadth of ground under cultivation at

* Companion to British Almanack.

present in Ireland than at any former period. This results, no doubt, from the admirable exertions of the present Lord Lieutenant, and of the Agricultural Improvement Society; and, whilst it is gratifying as a proof of the success of their past endeavours, it should be an encouragement to still greater efforts for the future.*

The Instructors in Agriculture, sent by the Earl of Clarendon to various parts of Ireland, have done signal service. These Practical Instructors supply the great desideratum in Ireland at present—“*Industrial knowledge.*” The conviction of this is becoming general; insomuch that, at a late meeting of the County of Cork Farming Society, it was proposed to apply for the great National Cattle Show for that locality next year; but it was

* A valuable estimate, framed from trustworthy sources, of the surface of land in Ireland cultivated in 1848, compared with the extent which was in cultivation in 1847, appeared in the number of the Economist for the 26th of last August. After giving returns from twenty-one counties out of thirty-two, and taking it for granted that the remaining counties shew a similar proportion, we have the following comparison between the years 1847 and 1848, for the whole of Ireland:—

	1847.	1848.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Wheat	743,871	735,000
Oats	2,200,870	2,187,000
Barley and Beer	332,655	355,537
Rye	12,415	13,238
Beans	23,768	25,224
Potatoes	284,116	1,054,000

moved by Lord Bernard, and carried unanimously, that the question of improved husbandry should have the preference; and that the money intended for premiums should be applied in procuring competent Practical Instructors in remote parts of that county.

The substitution (now becoming necessary) of other food for the potato, renders it more important that competent persons should be sent through the country, for the purpose of giving instruction in agriculture; and, in furtherance of this object, tracts upon agriculture, written in a plain, scientific form, could not fail to be productive of much good. I wish, too, to direct attention to the great benefit that would arise from attaching small farms to the different Union Workhouses. In these farms, good husbandry might be practised (or rather, it should be insisted on as a regulation), and they would thus serve as the means, both of imparting information, and exciting a spirit of industry and improvement in their respective neighbourhoods. These farms would, if properly cultivated, yield a considerable supply of wholesome food, and they would furnish healthy occupation of body and mind. Not only this; but such farms might, as suggested by the Guardians of the North Dublin Union, be made a test of the condition of the paupers. As they acquired skill in agriculture, they would naturally be inclined to leave the house, and enter into the service of regular

employers ; and they might be the means of diffusing instruction amongst their brother peasants. The general establishment of these workhouse-farms, combined with the distribution of tracts on agriculture, and with some organized system of Practical Instructors, would tend, I believe, in a great degree, to mitigate the sufferings and to promote the real welfare of Ireland : the workhouse would cease to be a nursery of idleness ; a spirit of healthy industry would be diffused over the face of the country ; in the train of industry would follow those other virtues of which she is the fostering nurse ; and crops of nutritious food would be raised in many spots which now present nothing but a wild and dreary waste. In connection with this subject, I would mention the success that attends the cultivation of flax. The reports made at the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Royal Society, for promoting its growth, were of the most gratifying character. “ A large breadth “ of land,” they state, “ was under the crop in “ the County of Mayo ; and, amongst other ad- “ vantages, this had resulted, that the farmers “ in the western districts had been enabled by the “ money realized for their flax, to pay their rents “ and taxes ; leaving the food produce of their “ farms available for the support of their families “ and stock. A step towards the use of a grain “ diet had thus been made (in itself of how incal- “ culable advantage !)—as, where formerly the oats

“ had been sold to meet their engagements, the flax
 “ now answered this end ; while the latter crop
 “ proving the best nurse for grass and clover ; its
 “ growth materially assisted the adoption of a rota-
 “ tion of cropping, in lieu of the constant alternation
 “ of potatoes and corn which had formerly been the
 “ practice in that district. In the Counties of
 “ Limerick, Clare, and Cork, the seed placed at the
 “ Society’s disposal by the Commissary-General,
 “ and distributed in these districts, had produced
 “ good crops of flax. There was now the best pros-
 “ pect of flax culture progressing through the west
 “ riding of Cork.”

The advantages that may be expected to arise
 from this source are many. Not only will employ-
 ment be required in the cultivation of the plant, but
 in its subsequent manufacture ; and I cannot but
 express my hope that if flax be extensively reared
 in the south and west of Ireland ; it will be manu-
 factured in that district, instead of being shipped to
 Belfast and Liverpool. The immense water-power,
 for instance, available in the town of Bellina, and
 which town contains many hundreds of women,
 girls, and boys, who would be too happy to be able
 to earn three or four pence each daily, will not
 surely always be allowed to be wasted.*

To the inmates of the workhouses too, the spin-
 ning of flax would give employment. In some
 of them hand-scutching has already been introduced ;

* *Vide* Agricultural and Industrial Journal of Ireland, No. 3.

tools on Belgian models have been provided, and the improved system has been taught by the agriculturalists of the Flax Improvement Society. It has been suggested that schools might be formed in every Union, where those who out of the house, would be most likely to hand-dress their own patches of flax, in place of paying for the scutching of it by machinery, could be trained in the most improved method, so that on returning to their work, they would have become skilled hands.*

Over-population is frequently spoken of as the cause of all the miseries of Ireland. If by this it is meant that the population in particular localities is too dense, the remark is unquestionably just; but taking the entire island, the population is so far from being excessive, that it is calculated by Sir Robert Kane that it could support about two and a half times its present numbers, and be able to export provisions largely besides. "When it is considered," he says, "what unexhausted, I might

* The Earl of Strafford was so convinced of the importance of introducing the general introduction of flax as a means of inducing the manufacture of linen, that at his own charge he imported a quantity of superior flax-seed; and the first crop having outgone his expectation, he expended the next year £1000. on the same venture, erected a vast number of looms, procured workmen from France and Flanders, and sent a ship to Spain at his own risk, with the first investment of linen that had ever been exported from Ireland! — (*Vide* Strafford Papers, and Forster's Life of Strafford.)

“say, unexplored, resources remain for the maintenance of any increase of inhabitants that can be expected in any definite period, it must, I think, be evident to any reflecting person, that all fears as to a *surplus population* are perfectly ideal, and that it is its unequal distribution, and not its aggregate amount, which is to be deplored.”*

At the very moment, in fact, that in some parts of the country, ruin is fast overtaking all classes from the excess of population ; in other districts, tracts of valuable land are uncultivated from want of hands to till them. Surely, then, it is worthy of consideration ; whether it is not expedient to endeavour to remove the surplus numbers from those places on which they now press so injuriously, to others where they might be rendered useful.

The waste lands of Ireland have been computed at six millions ; and of these three millions are peat-bog. The Relief Commissioners of Ireland state in their report that, “it appears from the experience of eminent practical authorities, that the peat possesses most desirable qualities for agricultural, manufacturing, household and general purposes.” And Mr. Rogers, the eminent engineer, in his report to the Irish Amelioration Society, states that the “peat-fuel, prepared as proposed by patent process, produces, proportionably, considerably more steam than coal, in consequence

* Kane’s Industrial Resources of Ireland.

“ of the diffusive property of its heat. Its economy
 “ has been fully proved by the steamers plying on
 “ the Shannon, and many engines worked in other
 “ parts of Ireland, and boilers fired by it, have been
 “ found to last nearly double the usual time. For
 “ distillation, brewing, soap-boiling, sugar-refining,
 “ and all similar operations it is particularly suit-
 “ able ; and for family use, its speedy ignition and
 “ general heat strongly recommend it.”

Peat-charcoal, he further states, and this is most important, is of very great value for the smelting and manufacture of all metals, being equal to the best wood-charcoal, at a much lower price. Iron of the finest description is produced from it at Ichoux, in the department of Landes, France ; at Wadenhammer and Wachter, — Neunhammer, Germany ; at Ransko, Bohemia ; at Konigsbrunn, Bavaria, &c. ; and the French Commissioners, authors of the “ Voyage Metallurgique in Angleterre,” state, that “ Peat is generally used on the
 “ continent for the manufacture of Iron ; and that
 “ turf-charcoal is fully equal, if not superior, to
 “ wood-charcoal for all purposes of iron manufac-
 “ ture.”

Some centuries ago the manufacture of iron was carried on in Ireland to a great extent. At that time the country was covered with forests ; and wood-charcoal was employed in the manufacture. The forests have disappeared, but rich veins of ore remain ; and why, if her peat-bogs can supply the

place of her forests in the manufacture of charcoal, — why should not the manufacture revive? At the period alluded to iron was *exported* from Ireland. “At Waterford,” says Dr. Boate in his work on the natural history of Ireland, written two centuries ago, “the iron was put on board the ships going “for London, where it was sold for sixteen, other- “whiles for seventeen pounds sterling, and sometimes “for seventeen and a half, whereas it did not stand “Sir Charles Coot (the proprietor) in more than “betwixt ten and eleven pounds sterling, all charges “reckoned ; as well of digging, melting, fining, as “of carrying, boat-hire, and freight, even the “customs also comprehended in it.” “The Earl “of Cork, whose iron works being seated in Munster, “afforded unto him very good opportunity of send- “ing his iron out of the land by shipping, did in “this particular surpass all others ; so as he hath “gained great treasures thereby ; and knowing “persons, who have had a particular insight into “his affairs, do assure me, that he hath profited “above one hundred thousand pounds clear gain by “his said iron works.”

Sir Robert Kane gives it as his opinion, after a careful analysis, that the “ores of the Leinster and “Connaught coal-fields are equal, and even in “average superior to those generally employed in “Great Britain. The iron-stone of Kilkenny is “but little inferior to that of Arigna, while the “ores of Lough Allen attain a richness in iron only

“equalled by the black band iron-stone of Glasgow.” Yet at present, with these valuable supplies at her doors, Ireland imports from other countries the greater part of the iron she consumes.

It appears from Mr. Rogers’ report that peat-charcoal has been recently proved to be “the best disinfectant, absorber, and deodoriser known, its effects being instantaneous and continuous.”*

* “Several parties interested in sanitary reform, including Lord Lyttleton, and the Rev. C. Girdlestone, attended on Wednesday, Oct. 18th, (1848), at the residence of Mr. H. Giles, Surgeon of Stourbridge, to witness experiments with various deodorants, with a view to ascertain their relative efficiency. The fluids prepared by Messrs. Ellerman, and by Sir J. Burnett, both pure and diluted with water, and also charcoal prepared from peat, on the plan patented by Mr. Jasper Rogers, and adopted by the Irish Amelioration Society, were successively applied each, to three kinds of offensive refuse; that from a stable, that from a pig-stye, and night-soil. On applying Messrs. Ellerman’s fluid undiluted, there was a copious disengagement of a disagreeable, sweetish-smelling gas in each instance, the natural smell of the substances being considerably abated; but all present thought the resulting odour not much less offensive than the original one. A similar result followed, on experimenting with the same fluid (that is of Messrs. Ellerman) diluted; but the resulting odour was not quite so pungent. With Sir J. Burnett’s liquid, a slight effervescence took place, and the offensive smell of the substances to which it was applied was undoubtedly lessened, both with the pure liquid, and with the same diluted; still there was a great amount of the original smell remaining. But with the peat-charcoal the result was perfectly satisfactory; it instantly and entirely neutralized and destroyed the whole of the offensive odour in each substance. It also deodorized the compound of

Little attention has been paid of late years to the encouragement of manufacturing industry in Ireland, yet few countries contain greater mineral wealth, or greater water power. "It will be perceived," say the Railway Commissioners of Ireland, in their second report, "that Ireland contains abundance of "valuable stone, marble, and slate quarries, many "of which are at present in successful operation. "That the metallic mines now at work, though "limited in number, are very prosperous, and should "the prices of copper and lead increase, much more "extensive works will probably be undertaken." And to the same effect Sir R. Kane says, "that by "far the greater portion of the island is constituted "of mineral formations, analogous to those of the "principal mining districts of England, and the "continent of Europe. That in almost every "quarter valuable deposits of the more important "metals, rocks and minerals have been found, and

"manure, and Ellerman's liquid, destroying with the like facility "this pungent chemical smell mixed with a fetid odour. On re- "examination the next morning, and again two days subsequent "by Mr. Giles, the substances to which Ellerman's fluid had "been applied had lost a good deal of their mingled odour, but "still were not inodorous. Those to which Sir J. Burnett's "fluid had been applied, still retained some though less of their "natural smell. Whilst those mingled with the charcoal "remained perfectly inodorous. The peat-charcoal was kindly "supplied from Danes' Moss, near Macclesfield, where it is manu- "factured from the extensive beds of peat in that neighbourhood "for the use of the union workhouse."—*Macclesfield Paper*, 184

“the quantity of ores raised and sold is annually on the increase.” If we consider this, and if we also take into account the beneficial effects which have sprung from manufactures in the north of Ireland ; the tendency which they have to absorb the surplus population ; and the fostering influence which they exercise on agricultural prosperity, who cannot but wish that much of the time and energy which has been wasted in agitation for measures barren of all substantial good had been directed to the development of this and other sources of wealth and improvement ?

A somewhat similar state of things to what now prevails in Ireland, existed in England in the middle of the sixteenth century. The population of the country was employed almost exclusively in agriculture ; and a great proportion of the produce of the soil was sent to foreign countries to purchase manufactured commodities. The country was overrun by beggars and vagrants. What was the remedy adopted by the illustrious Statesmen of Elizabeth’s reign ! They resolved to promote and encourage domestic manufactures ; occupation was thus found for the able-bodied poor, and the parishes were relieved from the burthen of their support.

I would now say a few words on the deep-sea fisheries of Ireland. Hitherto but little success has attended the attempts to prosecute them ; yet there is little reason to doubt, that they might be

rendered, as Sir Wm. Temple remarked, "a mine
 "under water as rich as any under ground." No
 plans, however, for their development will be, I
 believe, of much use, until greater exertion is made
 to give the requisite instruction to the population
 on the coast, and also to ascertain the localities of
 the fish.

Professor Forbes, so eminent for his scientific
 attainments, and who has devoted much attention
 to this matter, says, in a letter which I recently
 received from him, "I think that nothing effectual
 "and lasting can be done *without the instruction of*
 "*the fishermen and precise knowledge of the grounds.*
 "Whilst I object strongly to government aid and
 "bounties; I hold it to be the duty of the state to
 "provide that instruction, and information which
 "may lead to the successful employment of private
 "capital. A hydrographical survey of the fishing
 "grounds, conducted specially with reference to the
 "light which natural history and science have of
 "late thrown on the subject, would supply the latter
 "desideratum without involving great expense.
 "Unless such instruction and information be pro-
 "vided, it is my decided opinion, after studying the
 "subject with care, that no profitable pursuit of
 "deep-sea fisheries, in Ireland, on a large scale, so
 "as to be a source of wealth to that country can be
 "looked for."

Besides the deep-sea fisheries, the rivers and
 coasts of Ireland abound with fish. Oysters are

met with in great quantities, and there is no reason why Ireland should not furnish the English market with a large supply of this luxury, “In no part of Europe are the lobsters, crabs, and cray-fish finer, either in size or quality, than on the shores of Ireland ; and while in this respect Guernsey and Jersey employ numberless hands in the prosecution of a useful and profitable fishery, carrying riches to the enterprising individuals concerned in it, Ireland with resources multiplied a thousand times avails herself only in a very trifling degree of the treasures contained in the bosom of her bays and creeks.” “The immense amount of employment this branch would afford is incalculable.”*

It is impossible to consider the state of Ireland without reflecting on the dangers with which the continuance of her present distress threatens the whole empire. The alleviation of that distress is an English as well as an Irish question. If we but consider the expense of the establishments of soldiery and police which are now required for the preservation of peace in that country, we cannot but desire to see those social improvements effected, which would be the surest foundation of order and tranquillity ; but if we take into account the annual influx of Irish paupers into this island, and the

* *Vide* Report of the Rev. J. B. Tyrwhitt on Irish Fisheries, published in the *Tralee Chronicle*, 8th May, 1847.

injury thence resulting, both to our own destitute poor, and to the rate-payers of our principal towns, it is impossible not to be appalled at the prospect before us. Humboldt* was the first to observe the remarkable difference between the population of Great Britain from 1801 to 1821, as actually shewn by the returns, compared with that which should have existed according to the register of births and deaths; and which difference he ascribed to the influx of Irish. And the Rev. Dr. Montgomery emphatically stated, in his evidence before the Lords' Committee on Colonization, in 1847, "If we had no sea between England and Ireland, you would be at once overrun with our starving population; but even as it is, steam-boats and other ships are bringing over crowds from year to year, and that immigration will increase. Is it not proper for your Lordships, then, to consider what the effect of that will be upon your own population, leaving Ireland out of the question altogether? Either you will raise the Irish to the condition of the English, or you will pull the English down to the condition of the Irish. Can you, with this redundant supply of labour in the market, raise the Irish to the condition of your own labourers? I maintain that by ordinary means you cannot. Then the

* Humboldt, *Nouvelle Espagne*, vol. 4. p. 372; and *Voyages*, vol. 11. pages 217, 224.

“ necessary consequence will be, that you will pull
 “ down the English, and you will pull down the
 “ Scotch, and you will destroy your own country.”
 And the Committee of the House of Commons on
 Emigration, in 1820, say, “ Two different rates of
 “ wages, and two different conditions of the working
 “ classes, cannot permanently co-exist. One of
 “ two results appears to be inevitable; the Irish
 “ population must be raised towards the standard
 “ of the English, or the English depressed towards
 “ that of the Irish.”

In the preceding observations I have said nothing
 on the subject of Emigration, although fully sensi-
 ble of its great importance; and although most
 anxious to see it carried into effect on a sound and
 comprehensive principle. My object has only been
 to call attention to those sources of wealth and hap-
 piness which Ireland contains within herself, but
 which now lie waste and neglected. For the de-
 velopment of these, industrial habits, and industrial
 knowledge are indispensable. “ The most super-
 “ ficial glance,” says one of the most profound
 reasoners of our own or any age, “ at the present
 “ condition of European states, shews that those
 “ which linger in the race, cannot hope to escape
 “ the partial diminution and perhaps the final anni-
 “ hilation of their resources. It is with nations as
 “ with nature, which according to a happy expression
 “ of Goethe, knows no pause in unceasing move-
 “ ment, development and production, and has at-

"tached to it, a curse to standing still. The danger
 "to which I have alluded must be averted by the
 "earnest cultivation of natural knowledge. * * *
 "Bacon has said that in human societies knowledge
 "is power—both must rise or sink together."*
 Instead of indulging in wild dreams and idle phan-
 tasies respecting Repeal of the Union, and similar
 projects which are unattainable,—and which, if
 attainable, would be destructive,—let those who
 value the real happiness of Ireland; let those who
 truly commiserate the wretchedness of her people;
 endeavour to instruct them in the arts of practical
 industry, and to teach them the blessings and the
 advantages of self-exertion. A field is here open for
 the loftiest ambition; nor can the warmest patriot-
 ism, or the kindest benevolence desire any worthier
 objects than to diffuse contentment and prosperity
 through that now benighted island.

Let this be done;—let the supremacy of Law be
 under all circumstances maintained;—of Law, con-
 cerning which Hooker eloquently says, "there can
 "be no less acknowledged, than that her seat is the
 "bosom of God; her voice the harmony of the
 "world; all things in heaven and earth do her
 "homage; the very least as feeling her care, and the
 "greatest as not exempted from her power; both
 "angels, and men, and creatures of what condition
 "soever; though each in different rank and man-
 "ner; yet all with uniform consent admiring her

* Humboldt's *Cosmos*, p. 37.

“ as the mother of their peace and joy.” Let all parties, prince or peasant, priest or layman, be alike compelled to obey her mandates and submit to her decrees :—Let Justice, *true and real Justice*, be done to Ireland,—that Justice which consists in protecting life and property ; and which, though the shield of innocence, is also the avenger of guilt ; — and then may we hope that the fruits of honest industry will sprout and flourish on her soil ; and better days at length dawn upon that unhappy country.

THE END.

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